



# COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWSLETTER

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*COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWSLETTER is published six times a year by Community Service, Inc. Our purpose is to promote the small community as a basic social institution involving organic units of economic, social and spiritual development.*

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## mitraniketan

*Mitraniketan in Kerala, S. India, was started in 1956 by K. Viswanathan after he left Yellow Springs where he had spent many months living with Arthur and Lucy Morgan and working in a nearby orchard. The following article is excerpted from material sent to us by him and by our members, Helen and Richard Engdahl, who recently visited Viswanathan and Mitraniketan. (See their letter under Readers Write, p. 10).*

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high; where the knowledge is free; where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls; where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection; where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit; where the mind is led forward by Thee into ever-widening thought and action--into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.

*Rabindra Nath Tagore*

Mitraniketan celebrated its Silver Jubilee in the year 1982 and has by now passed three decades of service. The Indian Merchants Chamber has recently conferred on Mitraniketan its Platinum Jubilee Endowment Award for 1986 for its work in Socio-Economic and Human Resource Development in rural areas.

From Indian Merchants' Chamber Platinum Jubilee Endowment Award 1986 we read:

If there is a place where living is an attempt to explore, discover, understand, change and develop, it is Mitraniketan, the Home of Friends, in Vellanad, Kerala. Started in 1956 in a humble way, it has grown up over the years.

Mitraniketan is open to all irrespective of race, color, creed or nationality. It serves the dual purpose of educational reform and integrated rural development through its activities in campus and extension services to the community. Education through life experiences is its guiding principle. Through the educational process of integrating different aspects of life, work and personality, it aims at developing the individual as a self-reliant and socially useful citizen, and through him a generation of the family and the larger society.

Mitraniketan is now the hub of activities catering to the needs of tribals and other weaker sections of the Society. Partly through residential accommodation and partly through day-schools under shady trees, training has been given to many which ultimately inspired them to take the leadership in organizing co-operative societies. People from far and near, especially from countries like U.S., Europe and Asia are coming here to share their experience and offering their services towards this cause. . . .

Adopting a pragmatic attitude of social adjustment influenced by basic education and Gandhian economic philosophy, this institution has succeeded in bringing about work-oriented and character building education in the traditional "gurukul" way. . .

Mitraniketan is an educational and rural development complex, endeavouring to practice the ideal of "community-centred Education in an education-centred Community." It aims at total development of man and through him of a fully developed community. This idea has guided Mitraniketan in all its efforts through three decades of its existence. The major part of the work lies still ahead.

K. Viswanathan, its founder and director, when a student actively involved in socio-cultural and political activities of his locality, left his native village of Velland [Kerala, India] for social studies in the year 1949 and returned in 1956 after completion of his educational career in India and abroad. Meanwhile he had been in Santiniketan (West Bengal), Sevagram (Wardha), Pendle Hill, Community Service, Inc. and in various other institutions in the U. K., U. S. A., Denmark, Holland and other European Countries, to study education systems, cooperation schemes, experiments in community development and extension work. In Yellow Springs he came under the guidance of the late Dr. Arthur E. Morgan, an eminent educator and engineer, who became a great source of inspiration to him. His studies and the experience he gained convinced him that only a community-centred education in an education-centred community based on a natural environment could meet all challenges of total education and could save his rural community and other communities alike from poverty, ignorance and misery.

Thus, on his return, after a few trials here and there and with the help of a few friends from the locality and his own brothers and parents, started a small community centre at a corner of his parents' property, graciously donated to him. The centre was housed in a thatched shed constructed by devoted friends with the help of local people. They named it "Mitraniketan" which means "Abode of Friends."

The present Mitraniketan has grown into 65 acres of its own land with fully equipped

buildings to meet most of its present requirements. Apart from this, it has a centre and a working women's hostel in the City of Trivandrum.

Mitraniketan is a voluntary organization to promote grassroot-level development, training and education. It is a non-political, non-sectarian and non-commercial organization. Its program and activities are extended to all people, particularly the weaker sections, including tribal areas. It has a General Council consisting of twenty-one members and an Executive Body of five. K. Viswanathan continues as its Director, assisted by a Joint Director, and administrative staff.

The principal objectives of Mitraniketan are to develop the individual and community through a well-integrated educational program, to promote personal, family, community, regional and general development directed towards human understanding and fellowship and to train people for democratic action and leadership. Its aims also are to collect and diffuse knowledge that helps in the development of the community, to study and operate programs for the uplift and welfare of the weaker sections of society, and to promote traditional culture, including classical and folk arts and crafts.

Mitraniketan is located in the village of Velland, District of Trivandrum, northeast from the capital City. It is surrounded on all sides by small hills and dales and its scenic beauty is unrivalled.

The complex of Mitraniketan's educational, farming and mechanical establishments includes among others the following: nursery school, primary and secondary school (temporarily closed), centre for education and research, library and communication centre, common refectory, a farm unit, arts and sports unit, rural technology demonstration, printing and publication unit, handicrafts and rural marketing wing, community health centre, animal husbandry unit, hostels for boys and girls, and working women's hostel and Mitraniketan City centre both in Trivandrum.

In addition to the work done in these units, Mitraniketan, in collaboration with other agencies, attends to duties such as hosting

and arranging study tours for individuals and teams sent by governments or non-governmental agencies, organizing conferences or workshops, seminars and meetings jointly with government departments and voluntary agencies and hosting visitors from various parts of the world. Viswanathan, being an elected member of various committees constituted by governmental and non-governmental bodies, participates in the work of these committees.

So far, in Mitraniketan's program only the ground work has been done. The scope of all departments will be expanded and activities will be consolidated to meet the needs of developing rural communities. Mitraniketan has taken steps to strengthen its marketing and procurement facilities on co-operative principles. This includes preservation, storage and other service facilities for all products, and great attention has been paid to maintaining environmental and ecological balance in this area and the centre will continue to enlarge the program more vigorously in future.

The construction of a rural theatre for arts and culture, started with the assistance of the Central Government, is nearing completion. Steps are taken to improve existing facilities for sports, games and swimming by extension of play grounds, building of a gymnasium and swimming pool on the campus. And development of alternative sources of energy for rural consumption is another area on which Mitraniketan lays stress.

A separate trust is contemplated to comprise activities in certain fields like printing and publishing, wood and metal work, to provide Mitraniketan, a non-profit community centre, with financial support to pave its way to economic independence. It is planned to include in this scheme appropriate technology for production of improved tools and implements to raise efficiency in rural work.

An educational complex at block level is envisioned to strengthen and improve teaching/learning processes and offer creative work experience in linking pre-primary, primary, secondary and higher secondary schools.

Mitraniketan plans to start up again its General Education for Children with residential facilities and introduction of training

facilities for committed organizers of voluntary action groups. It wants its students and staff to reflect deeply upon ideas such as the following:

I shall work for an India, in which the poorest shall feel that it is their country in whose making they have an effective voice; an India in which there shall be no high class and low class of people; an India in which all communities shall live in perfect harmony. There can be no room in such an India for the curse of untouchability or the curse of intoxicating drinks and drugs. Women shall enjoy the same rights as men. Since we shall be in peace with all the rest of the world, neither exploiting nor being exploited. We should have the smallest army imaginable. All interests not in conflict with the interests of the dumb millions will be scrupulously respected, whether foreign or indigenous. Personally I hate distinction between foreign and indigenous. This is the India of my dreams. . . . I shall be satisfied with nothing less.

*Gandhiji*

For the preservation and transmission of the fundamentals of civilization, vigorous, wholesome community life is imperative. Unless many people live and work in the intimate relationships of community life, there can never emerge a truly unified nation, or a community of mankind. If I do not love my neighbour whom I know, how can I love the human race, which is but an abstraction? If I have not learned to work with a few people, how can I be effective with many?

*Arthur E. Morgan*

The concerns for man and his destiny must always be the chief interest of all technical efforts. Never forget this among your diagrams and equations.

*Albert Einstein*

The school should not be preparation for life, it should be life.



# Teaching Kids

## Racial Harmony

FELLOWSHIP HOUSE FARM HELPS LOCAL  
STUDENTS GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER

by Margaret Battistelli Davis

*The following article was excerpted from the  
South Phila. Review West (December 17, 1987).*

You might expect some conflict at a school where 48 percent of the student body isn't American-born, but Francis Scott Key Elementary School, Eighth and Wolf Streets [South Philadelphia] is taking steps to help children overcome racial and ethnic differences.

According to Renee Yampolsky, Key's principal, the school has launched an all-out effort to promote racial harmony. "Our goal is to divert, eliminate, and negate any negative feelings between the races," Yampolsky said. "We're a multi-ethnic school but we rarely have trouble. With the kids, any fights they get into are about kid stuff -- 'He hit me' or 'She called me a name'. It's the parents who drag race into it."

Aside from the obvious racial and language differences, the school's large foreign population also must deal with a variety of other problems. One of the most disturbing, according to Yampolsky, is an alarmingly high drop-out rate.

"The drop-out rate in the Southeast Asian community is increasing," she explained. "It's very difficult for a kid who starts school at 7th, 8th, 9th grade. If they never had any school before, it can be frustrating. "Also, many of them come from very poor families, and they need to work. Some have a feeling of not belonging, like this isn't their country. It's especially hard for youngsters."

To combat problems caused by ethnic differences in the school, administrators are organizing a pilot program that will involve a Chinese-American teacher and a Vietnamese-American teacher's aide. According to Yampolsky, however, the school still is in

"desperate need" for a teacher's aide who speaks either Cambodian or Laotian. . . . "So far the families' responses have been very positive," she explained. "It's a program that will be marvelous and one that people will want to replicate."

When the proposed program is in place, it might reflect Key's involvement with "Adventures in Harmony," a workshop run by Fellowship House Farm, a Pottstown-based non-profit agency that promotes improved inter-racial and inter-ethnic relations.

According to David Tulin, Fellowship House Farm's executive director, "Adventures in Harmony" is designed to "promote integrity, respect and cooperation among black, white and Asian students," and to improve the quality of their education.

Tulin said that a major part of the program is a 24-hour overnight workshop at Fellowship House Farm, where children are taught how to solve their problems nonviolently. Forty-five Francis Scott Key students have participated in the overnight session.

"In the workshop, the group talks about things like what makes them proud about their personal and private lives," Tulin said. "They get to know themselves and they develop their senses of high self-esteem because they start with that point of pride." Tulin added that children in the workshop talk about problems they've had and ways they attempted to overcome them. "They also role-play, first playing out the way they solved their problems and then playing out other possible solutions," he explained. Response to the three-year-old workshop program has been "amazing," Tulin said. "The big problem is keeping the kids away for the next time, like if we only want new students," he added.

"Some of the kids start out with a resistant, anxious attitude but they have so much fun that they calm down and open up."

According to Tulin, kids who go through "Adventures in Harmony" program come away from it with a better understanding of themselves, and each other. This growth is reflected both in their behavior and in their answers to various surveys concerning the program.

After the 1986-87 sessions, young participants were asked to finish the following statement, "One time that I really thought about or used what I learned at Fellowship Farm was when . . ."

Some of their responses were:

- " . . . I talked in sign language with my cousin."
- " . . . I was going to fight but didn't."
- " . . . I came home and discussed it at the dinner table."
- " . . . I broke up a fight between two people."
- " . . . dealing with people who are prejudiced and racist."
- " . . . I learned to get along with different races and to respect people which I did not do before."

Tulin said that Fellowship House administrators were more than pleased with the results of those surveys. "It left us heartened," he said, "to know that they do think twice about what we taught them."

One major question that troubles "Adventures in Harmony" proponents is whether or not the program helps decrease barriers among school children and their parents. Tulin said that, despite their follow-up programs, Fellowship House staffers can't stay with a child for the rest of his life. For the program to make a permanent impression on the child, he added, parents also must change their attitudes and encourage change in their children.

"Some parents reinforce what we've built in the child and others tear it down," he said. "But we look at it like this--if they hadn't have gotten what we gave them, then they couldn't build on it. We try to teach the children to take pride in themselves; take the good from their parents and filter out those things their parents can't help. You can't create an ideal world. We want to change the world one person at a time."

For information on the Fellowship House Farm or the "Adventures in Harmony" program, call 326-3008 or 248-3343 or write to Fellowship Farm, RD#3, Saratoga Road, Pottstown PA 19464.



## Commentary



*Excerpts from Griscom Morgan's response to Esther Patterson's letter which appeared in our Newsletter of Jan/Feb 1988.*

I am glad you are interested in the small school challenge. It is far more important than most people can imagine. The Carnegie Foundation was leading in the fight against small schools two generations ago and today it is out front for the small schools against the big. Studies have shown that small schools are less expensive for the same performance--or better. The record of performance of children from states with small schools (though far poorer economically) is well ahead of the wealthy states with large schools. The well-being of teachers and closeness of teachers to students and parents is much higher in the small schools than in the large schools. On paper it can be argued that providing lots of specialists and expensive services would make far better education. But that is not the world for young children any more than a big factory would be.

Lower animals are known to be harmed by high population densities. We have much evidence of this among children. Dr. W.R.P. Emerson when professor of pediatrics at Tufts medical school discovered and proved the harm to students in schools and universities in the high density environment, and learned much about how to offset it. The conditions that developed were the same as among high densities of lower wild animals. Their functions become overstimulated and increasingly exhausted. Just giving children smaller classes is not the answer. In one large school the administration saw the symptoms of ill health and went all out to correct them with heavy investment. At the end of a year of expensive endeavor and staff to carry it out, they checked to see how successful they had been and the only difference they found was an increase in anxiety.

The harm to animals from high densities comes from other than crowding in a school room or much interpersonal contact. That has been repeatedly proved--making crowded small schools better than uncrowded large ones.

# Community Educational Service Council, Inc. and Fellowship for Intentional Community

by Jane Morgan

This year the Community Educational Service Council, Inc. and Fellowship for Intentional Community annual meetings will again be held in conjunction with each other on April 16-19 at Green Pastures, an Emissary community near Epping, New Hampshire, about one hour north of Boston on a 165-acre Stewardship Farm. Meals and lodging will cost \$25 a day per person.

In the mid-fifties CESCO grew out of an FIC meeting held at Pendle Hill, a Quaker Center near Philadelphia, and was called the Homer L. Morris Fund. It was renamed CESCO in 1976. Its purposes have always included providing both small, short-term loans to intentional community businesses and educational services such as helping Stelle Foundation, Inc. take on the publication of Communities magazine from Twin Oaks in Virginia by giving SFI a grant.

From its 25 members, CESCO's Board of Directors of seven is chosen. Anyone may become an associate member of this organization by showing an interest in it and paying \$1.00 a year. After attending membership meetings, associate members may become eligible to become full members and help set policy and possibly serve on the Board of Directors.

From the new FIC brochure we read:

The Fellowship of Intentional Communities was established in 1948 at a Community Service conference held in Yellow Springs, Ohio. In attendance were communitarians from France, India, South America, Canada and across the east, west and mid-west of the United States. Since 1948 annual FIC conferences have been held in the Northeast and Midwest. The conferences have provided a forum for communication, mutual support and co-operative development among intentional communities. . . .

In the early sixties the Fellowship

conceived the Intentional Communities Guidebook, including a listing of contemporary communities. The Guidebook, containing articles on community values and experiences, is published by Community Service, while the communities listing is now published by Communities magazine as the Directory of Intentional Communities.

During the sixties to the present time the FIC meetings were small and informal and preceded the CESCO annual business meetings the same weekend which were usually held in the Philadelphia area. In 1985 CESCO provided a small grant to Stelle Foundation, Inc. to help finance the expansion of the Fellowship into a continent-wide network of intentional communities. In May 1987 the Fellowship became incorporated at Stelle Community. (See article by Allen Butcher and Dan Christenberry in our July-August NEWSLETTER last year.) The Board of Directors consists of individuals from the United States and Canada most of whom belong to intentional communities and/or affiliated organizations.

From the FIC brochure:

The Fellowship will continue to involve communities, support organizations and individuals seeking community, in trust building through development of networking gatherings, referral systems, academic programs and financial initiatives. Host communities for FIC events are being sought in all regions in order to expand community networking across the North American continent.

At this year's annual meetings of these two organizations, the CESCO Board and membership meetings will meet Saturday morning April 16th. After an Emissary Presentation by David Thatcher, the FIC meetings will begin Saturday mid-afternoon. General sessions and/or committee meetings of both groups may continue through Sunday evening. follow-up committee work is scheduled for Monday and



Tuesday for those who need to stay longer.

*The Guidebook for Intentional Communities* is being republished by Community Service this year. It will be available the middle of March for \$5, postage included.

Any communitarian interested in a loan from CESCO should contact its treasurer, John Ewbank, 1150 Woods Road, Southampton, PA 18966.

For more information about arrangements for the CESCO/FIC meetings, contact Tom Starrs, 603/679-2203, conference co-ordinator at Green Pastures, or write him at Green Pastures, Ladd's Lane, Epping, NH 03042.



## Book Reviews

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE by Griscom Morgan. A collection of essays on economics and sociology. Reprinted from Community Service News, 1987, 20 pp. Available from Community Service, \$2.00 (\$3/postpaid).

Ernest Morgan

The first two articles, relating to the taxation of money and procedures for regulating its value, offer a vitally important contribution to current economic thinking in a society in desperate need of restructuring its economic life.

In addition to the advantages mentioned by Griscom, I would point out two more. The taxing of money in its various forms would swiftly redress the imbalance of foreign trade without resort to tariffs or import restrictions. Foreign suppliers accepting American dollars would have to spend or invest them quickly to avoid loss. the dollars would find their way home in a hurry.

A second advantage could be in handling the Federal Debt. By partly or entirely exempting government bonds from taxation, they could be made a partial tax refuge and the Federal Debt might be refinanced at a tiny negative interest. Would this be an injustice to Government bond holders? Not so, because it would offer a desirable alternative to repudiation or drastic devaluation which otherwise would be inevitable.

Griscom appropriately points out the resounding success of monetary taxation in the Gothic era. I would add that the modern situation has been complicated by great changes that have taken place since the Gothic period. I refer to the immense accumulation of productive capital and the enormous inequity in the distribution of ownership and income. This inequity has accelerated in the last few years to the point where half of one percent of the people now own 35% of the productive assets, and the maldistribution of income is comparable.

Only by enormous borrowing does our society get access to its own products. This borrowing is a form of medicine which must be taken in ever-increasing doses until it kills the patient. The moment our frenzied borrowing stops, the economy will collapse, as in 1929.

Consider: the Federal Debt is now \$2 1/2 trillion; the private debt about \$5 trillion, making a total of \$7 1/2 trillion. Divide this by the number of people in the country and the debt for a family of four comes to \$124,480. (Griscom's figure was taken from a while back.) A recent report in Forbes states that America's number one rich boy, retailer Sam Walton, is reputed to have seen his assets nearly double to \$8.5 billion. At the same time more than 30,000,000 Americans live in poverty (and the number is rising) and are unable to buy a significant part of the products of American industry.

If we fail to restructure our economic life, our poor will soon be starving and our businessmen will again be jumping from tenth story windows as they did in 1929. How to restructure American economic life and do it within the framework of a democratic system--that is our challenge, and it calls for a full program.

The taxation of money and the regulation of its value, as Griscom suggests, is a vital part of

part of that program, but cannot do the job alone. Other important measures are:

1. A "Universal Stock ownership Plan", as put forward by economist Stuart Speiser, which would channel incremental equity in our major corporations into "Super Stock" which would be distributed to American families, making them stockholders.
2. Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOP), already functioning and growing, whereby companies are given tax incentives to transfer incremental equity in their firms to their employees in the form of stock. (In my own firm more than half the stock is already owned by the employees, via this route.)
3. Encouragement of credit unions and cooperatives and, in some cases, the development of public ownership.
4. Steeply graduated income and inheritance taxes.

The wise regulation of land tenure would be needed, lest money take refuge in land ownership and stimulate another widespread form of exploitation. The land trust principle offers one procedure, but we won't go into that here.

The remainder of Griscom's pamphlet relates to population problems. What he says about the disastrous eugenic effect of the movement of rural populations to the cities is right on target. His analysis of the population explosion, however, dwells on only a limited factor.

For centuries Europe was swept by periodic plagues which killed half the people thus thinning the population down to a viable level. Such plagues have been eliminated. Until a few decades ago infant mortality in many countries was around 50%. Now it is around 15%. Smallpox, until lately, took a vast toll. Now it is gone. The latest charts of the Population Institute show world population growing at the rate of a million every 4 1/2 days--and the rate is increasing! In a world of diminishing resources this calls for vigorous action.

In conclusion I would say that Griscom's pamphlet, while loosely edited in spots, represents an important contribution to economic thinking and deserves wide circulation.

*Editor's note: Though Hope for the Future is not a Community Service publication, we can offer 10 copies at a 40% discount, plus \$1.00 postage. We welcome comments, not to exceed 600 words, or an article for consideration, not exceed 2000 words.*

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HEALTHY HARVEST II: A DIRECTORY OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE & HORTICULTURE ORGANIZATIONS, Susan J. Sanzone, Jenny Burman, and Mary Agnes Hage, eds. Potomac Valley Press, 119 pp., \$10.95.

#### *Patience Paradox*

In the early 1900s the Sierra Club became one of the first groups in the U. S. to actively oppose technological development which harmed or depleted the environment. A growing number of individuals began to realize that the well-being of humans was directly dependent on the well-being of the other animals and plants.

The price of human knowledge is responsibility. The decisions we make about our lifestyles and livelihood have an exponential effect on our environment, and we must take these ramifications into account. Native American healer Amylee puts it this way, "Before you attempt to do something, you should think of how it will affect the next five generations." In caring for the earth you are caring for yourself and your family.

The mass media give access to vast stores of knowledge. Yet, because of the predominantly consumerist orientation of the media, many people remain isolated from the resources that would help them appreciate the interconnected nature of life on the earth.

Healthy Harvest II illustrates how people can get together and learn more about the world and how to implement responsible stewardship towards the earth. It is a prime example of the concept of networking. Long before the advent of the written word, everything--from the burial of the dead to locating the best sources of food--was passed down to each generation by word of mouth. Networking is an updated version of this process. The editors of Healthy Harvest II started out by contacting a few groups involved in environmentally sound agriculture practices. They asked these people about their activities, and encouraged



them to recommend other like-minded people and organizations. It didn't take long for this networking effort to expand to its present form, which includes over 600 groups.

This wide variety of resources offers readers the opportunity to make conscious choices about how they are living their lives. The book is subtitled "A Directory of Sustainable Agriculture and Horticulture Organizations," but it would be a mistake to think it's only for agronomists and farmers. Rather, it's the kind of book that you wish for in times of intense searching and questioning of your purpose. Instead of the pervasive alienation of the modern culture, it offers a way to get in touch with the life force of the planet through study and practice.

The book not only presents organic growers' associations and extension services, it also includes newsletters, media projects, and apprenticeship opportunities in everything from beekeeping to holistic health to working with wood and using draft horses.

For those with more formally political interests, there are groups dealing with such issues as the debt problems facing small farmers, ecological agrarian reform and the environmentally-conscious political party which is appropriately named the Greens.

The editors of Healthy Harvest see it as an ongoing project. They include a description form in the back of the book for others to include themselves in future directories.

Readers may have a slight problem with the format of the book. The entries are listed in alphabetical order, with a subject index that seems little more than an afterthought. This design tends to complicate finding groups in a particular area of interest. Making the index the alphabetical guide to the directory would have been a better approach.

Healthy Harvest II certainly has something for everyone. Additionally, it lists intentional communities, ongoing workshops, resource libraries, farm and garden suppliers, appropriate technology consultants. It is a recommended reference that could keep a person extremely busy corresponding, inquiring, learning and exploring; just the thing we need to help the planet to continue to survive.

## Commentary

### STRIP MINING



By Bill Ragette

*The following, from a clipping Paul Salstrom sent with his brother John's letter (p. 10) is from the November '87 The Mountain Worker, a newspaper of the Catholic Worker Movement. Bill Ragette is husband of Dorothy Day's granddaughter, Maggie.*

People around [Lincoln County, W. VA.] have had to wrestle their living from the wilderness since the first settlers came. For some the land is an enemy. But we have found the majority of people we talked to prefer the natural beauty to the short-term increase in economic activity. The poverty of West Virginia is more of the mind than reality. Even the poorest around here are wealthy compared to most of the third world. People feel poor after seeing the glitter on television. Yet it is true that people here are forced into poverty because half the land is owned by corporations. If you don't have a job and have no place to grow food or build a cabin, then you'll get desperate and take on any job even if it involves raping the land.

Now that mining has started, we can still check the mining operation; testing water, making sure that reclamation is as thorough as the law demands. But as this mine is at the far end of the county we cannot maintain a close monitor of the operation, unless the local people want to get involved. We are looking to buy a water testing lab for 500 dollars and would appreciate donations. Any water pollution detected would give us a strong legal position to make the companies clean up their act.

There are more coal prospecting permits issued for Lincoln County. As people discover drilling rigs close to them they are becoming aware and involved. When these prospecting permits evolve to mining permit applications, we will have a larger and better informed group to work against these attacks on our land and our heritage.





## ABOUT MITRANIKETAN

Your recent inclusion of a letter from Viswan came at a time when we were planning a trip to India with a group of supporters of World Neighbors, Inc. When we realized that at Trivandrum we would be near Mitraniketan we wrote to Viswan with whom we had become acquainted when he was first in Yellow Springs [in the fifties] suggesting that we might see him.

He surprised us by meeting our plane at Trivandrum. Later he arranged to take us to lunch and a too brief tour of impressive Mitraniketan. We were utterly astonished at what he and his co-workers have achieved. Others also have recognized that achievement as shown by the citation enclosed taken from the project's 1986 Annual Report.

Arthur Morgan's early support to Viswan was crucial, and we are proud to have responded to some of Dr. Morgan's requests for support for various stages of the initial development. But from our tour of the place we were amazed at its extent which, apparently, had substantial support from government and other sources. We would not have guessed it from our early contacts but Viswan is obviously a superb salesman for his project. As with so many super-achievers, he has periods of discouragement, but while we were there, he was a whirlwind of energy. His very beautiful wife and daughters served us a delicious Indian lunch. She's quiet, and showed signs of being taxed to channel some of Viswan's energies toward family concerns.

We gain inspiration from many of the articles in your Newsletter.

*Dick (and Helen) Engdahl, Columbus, OH*

## ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

Enclosed is a check to enlist my name in membership of "Community Service, Inc.," and to purchase the book Community Dreams. Recently I was given a back issue of your Newsletter and found a feeling of common bond with many of the articles. I will be looking forward to my first copy and the book.

*Becky Shultz, State College, PA*

## ABOUT STRIP MINING IN WEST VIRGINIA

*Our member Paul Salstrom has asked us to print the following letter which he received from his brother, John, who with his neighbors is having trouble with a coal strip mining company in Lincoln County, West Virginia.*

Jan and I and our daughter have been living in Lincoln County, West Virginia, for 13 years. We have been able to build a comfortable log home, barns, and pasture for our sheep. We have a garden, chickens and an orchard now bearing fruit, where there was only woods before. And we are very thankful. It has taken a lot of hard work and many years to get where we are. There's still much to do, such as continual work on our road. From our ridgetop home, you can see for miles around on three sides. And it's beautiful.

We are now faced with a threat to our land. There is a newly formed coal company that is trying to start a strip mine around us. We are trying to stop them. We are not only concerned about the aesthetics of losing our beautiful environment, but also concerned about losing the water source to our deep well, landslides, water contamination, road damage, and blasting damage to structures. We have formed a nonprofit organization of concerned families in the county. It's called Home Place. We hope to stop them on every legal ground that we can find. We would be very thankful for any donations to help pay for legal expenses. Donations for a water testing kit can be sent to Bill Ragette, 144 Trace Fork, Culloden, West Virginia 25510.

*John and Jan Salstrom, Myra, West VA*

## ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

Much enjoyed Richard Grossman's article in your September/October issue. I'm writing for his original. Thanks for running this "radical" piece.

Burt Berlowe's article is also of special interest. Do you have more information about Marin Village, California community he mentions?

*Charles Wood, Florida*



## ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

The last issue of the Newsletter is super. I was especially touched by the "Winter Solstice Message." Oh, that I might become more sensitive to my relationship with our Earth and all life forms thereon.

*Vic Eyth, Mentor, Ohio*

## Announcements



### GUIDEBOOK FOR INTENTIONAL COMMUNITIES

The Guidebook for Intentional Communities which has been out of print for some time has been revised by Griscom Morgan and will be available March 15th for \$5, postage included.

### POSITION AVAILABLE

Valley School, located in Monongahela National Forest, West Virginia, needs a teacher for their alternative, parent-governed elementary school. Send resume to: Valley School, PO Box 83, Elkins, WV 26241.

### SEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ESOP

This year's annual conference of The National Center for Employee Ownership, Inc. will be held at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, DC on March 24-26, 1988.

For more information: NCEO, 426 17th St., Suite 650, Oakland, CA 94612, 415/272-9461.

### NATIONAL HISTORIC COMMUNAL SOC. ASSOC.

The NHCSA is now having their "Call for Papers Presentations" on Communal Societies: Past and Present for the third annual meeting of the Pacific Coast Chapter, to be held in San Francisco, California on May 20 and 21, 1988, co-sponsored by Kerista Community.

If interested send one-page summary and brief personal resume to: Dr. Gordon Melton, Dir., Institute for the Study of American Religion, Box 90709, Santa Barbara, CA 93190-0709, or phone 1-805-961-8133.

### NATIONAL COMMUNITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS

The Foundation for Community Encouragement, Inc. has scheduled a three-day session of experiential workshops for March 18-20, 1988, at The Knoxville Downtown Hilton, Knoxville, Tennessee. There is a \$200 registration fee.

For more information write to: FCE, P. O. Box 50518, Knoxville, TN 37950-0518.

## Membership

Membership is a means of supporting and sharing the work of Community Service. The basic \$20 annual membership contribution includes a subscription to our bi-monthly NEWSLETTER and 10% off Community Service-published literature. Larger contributions are always needed, however, and smaller ones will be gladly accepted. Community Service is a non-profit corporation which depends on contributions and the sale of literature to fund its work so that it can offer its services to those who need them. All contributions are appreciated, needed and tax deductible. Due to added postage costs, overseas membership is \$25 in U.S. currency.

## Editor's Note

We welcome letters to the editor (under 300 words) and articles (700-2000 words) about any notable communities or people who are improving the quality of life in their communities. Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you wish the article returned. The only compensation we can offer is the satisfaction of seeing your words in print and knowing you have helped spread encouraging and/or educational information.

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## Staff

Jane Morgan.....Director/Editor  
Carol Hill.....Office Manager

## Address Changes

If there is an error on your mailing label, please send the old label and any corrections to us promptly. It increases our cost greatly if the Post Office notifies us of moves, not to mention that we like hearing from our members and friends!

## Trustees

Charles Betterton, Phyllis Cannon, Helen Dunham, Cyndde & Jim DeWeese, Victor Eyth, Theresa Fallon, Lance Grolla, Agnes Grulow, Weston Hare, Cecil Holland, Ernest Morgan, Griscom Morgan, Ross Morgan, Gerard Poortinga, Tim Sontag.



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*You can tell when your Community Service membership expires by looking at the month and year in the upper left corner of your mailing label. Please renew your membership now if it has expired or will expire before 4/88. The minimum membership contribution is \$20 per year. We do not send individual reminders to renew.*

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